



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
St. Louis District®

# Media Advisory

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## **Delay Announced For Closing Locks 27 Main Chamber**

Granite City, Ill. – The previously announced closure of the 1200-foot-long main chamber at Locks 27 near Granite City will be delayed, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District has announced. The closure was originally set for July 12, to allow emergency repairs to tensioning rods that prevent warping of the miter gates that open and close the south end of the lock chamber. The new dates are now July 26 to August 8, 2004.

The reason for the delay is the continuing high elevation of the Mississippi River, both above and below the locks. According to St. Louis District Construction and Operations Branch Chief, Peggy O'Bryan, although water heights were dropping recently, rain the past weekend was both widespread and heavy, causing water levels to increase for the next few days at least.

The St. Louis District is continuing to review long-range rain predictions with the National Weather Service and coordinating with navigation industry interests to minimize impacts from the still necessary closure.

When the locks chamber is closed it will be dewatered, or drained to permit the work to be accomplished. There is no change to the projected two-weeks originally indicated for the closure's duration.

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Editors note: This is a follow-up to an announcement dated June 7, 2004. Media are invited to visit the lock while it is dewatered, as the visual impact of the nearly quarter-mile-long, 35-foot-deep "hole in the Mississippi" should be quite interesting.